

COUNTRY East Germany Approved For Release 2006/04/18 : CIA-RDP82-00457R013800020008-3

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TOPIC Koethen Airfield25X1 EVALUATION [REDACTED] BTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1

DATE OF CO

DATE OBTAIN

DATE PREPARED 13 August 1952

REFERENCES [REDACTED]PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - sketch on ditto

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REMARKS

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1. The following activities were observed at Koethen airfield between 16 and 26 June 1952:

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16 June. Between 1:45 and 2:17 p.m., flying was practiced by sweptback jet fighters. Take-offs were made at 1:45, 1:46 and 2 p.m. Landings were observed at 1:44, 1:56, 2:02 and 2:17 p.m.

17 June. There was night flying in rainy weather.

18 June. Flying was observed between 3:48 and 4:55 p.m. Take-offs were made by a swept-back jet fighter at 4:10 p.m., a biplane at 4:14 p.m., and two swept-back jet fighters at 4:33 p.m. One swept-back jet fighter each landed at 3:48, 3:52, 3:53, 3:57, 4:48 and 4:55 p.m. A biplane landed at 4:20 p.m.

19 June. Take-offs were made by 1 Yak-11 at 11:16 a.m., two swept-back jet fighters at 11:49 a.m. and, subsequently, another swept-back jet fighter. Landings were performed by a Yak-11 at 11:01 a.m., a swept-back jet fighter at 11:07 and 11:24 a.m., a Yak-11 at 11:46 a.m. and a swept-back jet fighter at 12:07 and 12:09 p.m. A swept-back jet fighter landed at 11:07 a.m. and taxied to the dispersal area where it was refueled from a tank truck between 11:15 and 11:24 a.m. There was night flying between 10:52 and 11:59 p.m. The following take-offs and landings were observed:

Take-OffLanding

10:52 p.m.	11:59 p.m.	10:59 p.m.	11:46 p.m.
10:53 "		11:00 "	11:55 "
10:54 "		11:01 "	11:56 "
10:55 "		11:08 "	
11:03 "		11:09 "	
11:04 "		11:10 "	
11:05 "		11:17 "	
11:11 "		11:18 "	
11:12 "		11:19 "	
11:14 "		11:21 "	
11:22 "		11:26 "	
11:23 "		11:27 "	
11:29 "		11:31 "	
11:30 "		11:34 "	
11:31 "		11:35 "	
11:48 "		11:36 "	
11:49 "		11:45 "	
11:56 "			

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The landings and take-offs were made by individual swept-back jet fighters, except at 11:22 and 11:23, when two swept-back jet fighters took off.

23 June. Flying was practiced throughout the day. There was night flying up to about midnight. Between 9:50 and 11:05 p.m., 8 take-offs and 7 landings were observed.

24 June. Flying was practiced between 11:38 a.m. and 12:35 p.m.

25 June. There was flying after 7 a.m.

2. The following observations were made at the field between 26 June and 10 July:

26 June. At 10 a.m., 26 MiG-15s were counted at the field.

(1) The MiG-15s which were previously observed next to hangar 3 were no longer there. (2) A Yak-11 took off at 10:10 a.m. and landed at 10:40 a.m. A MiG-15 flew over Koethen at 12:45 p.m. Two searchlights were in operation from 11 p.m. to at least 3 a.m. One was located at the field while the other one was near the Koethen-Halle railroad line. As soon as the noise of engines was heard, the searchlights were put in operation and directed their beams toward the planes which had their position lights on. The aircraft which were heard flying at night were not MiG-15s.

27 June. Between 6 a.m. and noon, there was flying by MiG-15s without auxiliary fuel tanks. The aircraft flew individually or in elements of two. At 10:15 a.m., three formations of 9 MiG-15s each practiced formation flying over Koethen.

1 July. At 8:50 a.m., no aircraft were parked at the former alert platform. Four MiG-15s, probably the alert flight, were parked nearer to the runway. Their noses pointed to the south.

8 July. About 4:30 p.m., flying was observed at the field. Between 4:40 and 4:55 p.m., five landings were made. One biplane was identified.

A MiG-15 was towed by a command car. (1)

10 July. Six MiG-15s took off from the field between 11:10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Eleven MiG-15s were observed landing between 11:10 a.m. and 1:21 p.m.

12 planes which either landed at the field or were parked there. (1) All the landing MiG-15s were equipped with auxiliary fuel tanks.

3. () holes for fence poles had been dug along Koethen-Bassdorf road at regular intervals. On 8 July, soldiers were observed erecting for the fence. (4)

4. The searchlight installation along Koethen-Bassdorf road and the small spotlights on poles east of this installation were removed. It was observed on 1 July that the connecting cable to the spotlights was dug out. The tile ducts lay next to the small ditches. (5)

5. () the inner landing beacon and the heavy field cable, which extended from the field to the beacon, were removed. (4)

6. On 26 June, three AA guns, probably of 37-mm caliber, were observed in the emplacement in the vicinity of the firing range. Four other canvas-covered guns of the same caliber were parked between the AA guns emplacement and hangar No 2. (2) On 1 July, 3x37-mm AA guns and 5x37-mm guns were still observed next to the emplacement. Troops practiced with the guns emplaced there using a hand operated range finder.

7. () a heavy field cable extended along the northern edge of the field along the field path toward Arensdorf. Northwest of Arensdorf, the field cable ran in a curve toward Gross-Badegast. On 1 July, soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with crossed gun barrels practiced telephoning on the line which extended to a point short of Badegast. (6)

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Comments.

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

(6)

This is the first observation that flying in formations of nine aircraft was practiced at Koethen airfield since the fighter regiment was activated. This indicates that the status of training of the regiment has advanced. The other newly organized regiments, however, practiced formation flying only in flights of 5 to 6 planes.

Previously, Koethen airfield was one of the few fields of the Soviet Zone of Germany around which no fence was erected.

The removal of the row of spotlights for night flying and the inner landing beacon indicates that new installation were to be established there. So far, no information has been received indicating that one of the two MiG-15 units at Koethen airfield is to be transferred to another airfield.

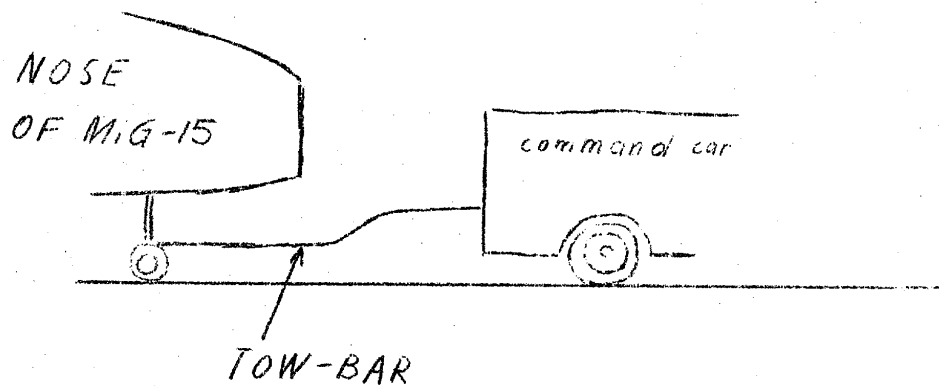
The AA guns emplacement near the firing range was previously reported

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The firing range is located on the southeastern edge of the field between the hangars and the Koethen-Halle railroad line. Besides the 37-mm guns, 12x20-mm twin-barreled AA guns are allegedly located at Koethen airfield, but the emplacements of the latter guns have not yet been identified.

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Command Car Towing MiG-15 at Koethen Airfield



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